

NYWEA GOLDEN MANHOLE SOCIETY

1. HISTORY

The original chapter of the Golden Manhole Society (GMS) was founded in New York in February of 1999. The idea was conceived by the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA) Wastewater Collection Systems Committee to recognize collection system personnel who contribute in outstanding measure to the operation and maintenance of sanitary, storm and combined sewer systems. These people, who provide a valuable service to the field, cannot all be nominated for Association awards, yet they deserve our collective recognition.

The Golden Manhole Society was originated to encourage what is now known as “getting involved”. There are members all over the United States and Canada, all of whom are recognized as “Special” in our collective efforts to operate and maintain sewer systems. Members are selected on the basis of merit. This is a society for those who contribute their efforts, time and energies. They are always ready to “pitch in”, “grab a hook” and “uncover and solve the problem”, hence the symbol and badge of membership, the manhole cover.

The GMS, while independent of the NYWEA, is sanctioned by the NYWEA . Considering the service of it’s members, there are no dues or regular officers, except the “Operator-in-Chief”.

There is an honorary badge, in the form of a manhole cover, which should always be worn or displayed at NYWEA functions to indicate GMS membership.

2. RULES

The following rules shall govern the Golden Manhole Society.

1. There are no dues, or officers, except the “Operator-in-Chief (OIC). The OIC will be elected by votes of the GMS present at the annual meeting of the NYWEA and shall serve until a successor is elected or installed (see 10.B.1).
2. The OIC shall administer the Elevation ceremony for new members to the GMA; record and report selections; present official certificates of Elevation; bestow the badge; and inform members concerning the GMS.
3. New members of the GMS cannot join or enroll - they must be selected for Elevation; on the basis of their willingness to “get involved” and their unselfish contributions of time and talent to the NYWEA and the field.

The selection of new members for Elevation shall normally be made by the present members of the GMS, except that the initial charter members shall be selected by the NYWEA Board of Directors.

4. Members shall be individuals who have worked on-site in the operations or maintenance of sanitary, storm or combined wastewater sewer systems, or individuals dedicated to the advancement of wastewater sewer collection systems - other than as on-site personnel - such as researchers, educators, designers, manufacturers' representatives, vendors, public officials or administrators. Membership in the NYWEA is mandatory.
5. The Elevation of new members shall be done once per year at the NYWEA Winter Meeting. The Elevation shall be done by the OIC. In his/her absence, the NYWEA Chairman of the Wastewater Collection Systems Committee, or the President can preside.

Note: Under extreme circumstances, new members once "elected", can be installed by the presiding officer at a regular NYWEA Chapter Meeting.

6. Each chapter of the NYWEA can annually nominate three (3) individuals to be Elevated into the GMS. The nomination is suggested and decided by vote of the GMS members. Should there be no GMS members in attendance, or recommended members are not submitted to the chapter, The Presiding Officer can nominate up to three (3) collection systems personnel for membership with the advice and council from his/her fellow Chapter members.
7. The NYWEA Board of Directors can annually nominate an individual to be elevated as a member by vote of the GMS.

8. Selection Procedure

A. Initiation

1) Chapter Nominated Members

No later than October 1 of each year, the Chapter Presiding Officer shall inform the OIC, the NYWEA President and the Wastewater Collection Systems Committee Chairman of the Chapter Nominee(s) for Membership.

Included with the nomination should be a paragraph setting forth each person's merit for the nomination.

2) Executive Committee Member

No later than October 1 of each year, the NYWEA President shall inform the OIC and the Wastewater Collection Systems Committee Chairman of the Committee's nominee for membership.

Included with the nomination should be a paragraph setting forth the person's merit for the nomination.

B) Election

1) Annual Meeting

The Wastewater Collection Systems Committee Chairman shall provide a proper forum for the OIC and Regular members to affirm nominees for Election. Nominees should normally be accepted by the GMS members, but can be rejected with cause. If less than three GMS members are able to participate in the forum, the OIC can Elect the nominees with the advice and counsel of the GMS members in attendance. If the OIC is not in attendance, the Wastewater Collection Systems Committee Chairman can act in his/her place.

2) Notification

After the forum has elected nominees, the OIC (or Wastewater Collection Systems Committee Chairman) will inform the NYWEA President, Wastewater Collection Systems Committee Chairman and Chapter Presiding Officers of the nominees and type of membership for each.

The Chapter Presiding Officer will inform local nominees of Election and inform the nominee that award will be made at the NYWEA Winter Meeting. The President will assure that the Executive Director has sufficient quantity and type of badges and award certificates available for the Winter Meeting for the Awards Ceremony.

- 11) Members will be elevated into the GMS at a suitable time at the Winter Meeting, in accordance with the elevation procedures, by the OIC. In the absence of the OIC, the Wastewater Collection Systems Committee Chairman or the President can preside.
- 12) If a nominee does not attend the Winter Meeting, his/her badge, certificate and elevation procedure will be returned to the appropriate Chapter for elevation of the individual by the Presiding Officer at a suitable Chapter function.

3. ELEVATION PROCEDURE

1. Introduction

The Elevating Officer states to all present that the individuals nominated to the GMS in accordance with the GMS rules are to be elevated to the GMS.

2. History

The elevating Officer reads the “History” or the GMS.

3. Recognition

The nominees are called to the chair by name and affiliation.

Each in turn, is given his/her badge and certificate and asked to remain at the chair.

4. Citation

The Elevating Officer reads the “citation” for meritorious service.

5. Closing

The Elevating Officer asks for appreciation by applause of the meeting attendees.

4. CITATION

Effective and efficient operation of our sewer collection systems are keys to the infrastructure service we provide our municipal ratepayers. The people (person) we honor now help to maintain this level of service everyday. They have help, for sure, but they are an integral part of the team effort.

In the end, though, only the wastewater collection system personnel who know how to maintain pump stations, clean sewers, televise sewers and are responsible for the repair and rehabilitation of the collection system on a fixed budget are the ones who must get the job done.

They work where and when the job has to be done. Sewers, manholes and truck cabs are their “offices”. They work in the dead of night or at high noon, in the heat of summer and through winter’s bitter cold.

They are sewer collection system personnel. We are here to honor these personnel for a job well done. Through the work of all the sewer system personnel, our sewers are in the better shape than they have been in decades. Their individual efforts help prevent sewage backups onto homes, businesses and sewer system overflows, thereby protecting our property and the environment.

On behalf of the GMS, and the NYWEA, we thank you and welcome you to the GMS!

(PRESIDING OFFICIAL LEADS CLOSING APPLAUSE.)